

# Alberta INDUSTRIAL NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND DEVELOPMENT / Hon. A. R. PATRICK, Minister  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH / R. MARTLAND, Director

- VEGETABLE OIL FIRM
- TELEPHONES ASSEMBLED
- MILK PLANT MODERNIZES
- MEDICINE HAT SURVEY

VOL. 4, No. 2

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA

APRIL, 1960

## FALL PRODUCTION SCHEDULED FOR SEED PLANT

The \$2,500,000 vegetable oil processing plant of Western Canada Seed Processors Ltd. at Lethbridge is nearing completion and scheduled to go on stream in late summer. The project combines a modern high capacity seed cleaning operation with one of the most modern vegetable oil seed extraction, refining and hydrogenation plants on the North American continent.

Raw materials to be used in the vegetable oil extraction process include sunflower, safflower, soybean, rapeseed and possibly flax. The plant can process up to 200 tons of sunflower or safflower seed every 24 hours. Seed purchases from southern Alberta farmers will amount to \$7-\$10 million per year. Initially 60 to 65 persons will be employed. The number of workers will eventually exceed 100. Annual payroll will be approximately \$400,000.

The commercial seed cleaning plant can handle various varieties of crops. Different seeds can be stored in ten storage tanks of 22,000 bushels capacity each. A warehouse is designed to hold 18 railway cars of cleaned seed ready for shipment.

The cleaning plant has in its equipment an electronic bean sorter. The sorter can process 1,500 pounds of beans per hour, sorting for color as well as for quality.



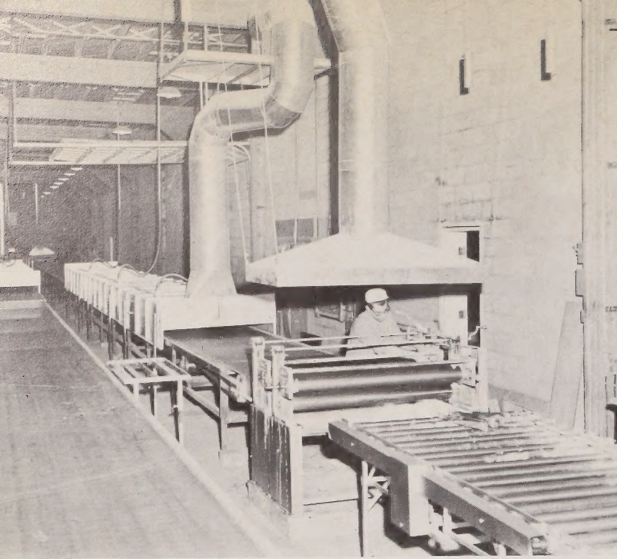
*The final process in extracting oil from vegetable seeds will take place in this refinery area.*

All seeds used in the oil recovery and meal process will pass through the seed cleaning plant where impurities will be removed prior to processing. Safflower and sunflower seeds will, after cleaning, pass through dehulling equipment for the removal of the hulls prior to entering the process.

The meats will be rolled, cooked and conveyed to three "expellers" where the first actual oil-meal separation begins. Oil gained is screened twice, filtered and stored for refining. The meal then passes through

*(Continued on Page 4)*





*Low-cost pre-finished panelling is produced on an assembly line basis in this 250-foot long unit.*

## Pre-finished Panelling Among Home Supplies Produced by New Firm

Millwork for a large part of the western Canadian home building industry is being designed and manufactured in a new one-half million dollar plant of Melwood Manufacturing Ltd., a division of E. V. Keith Enterprises, Calgary. The new concern pre-fabricates doors, folding doors, kitchen cabinets, pre-forms arborite kitchen counters and produces low-cost pre-finished panelling.

Melwood Manufacturing began operation in 1959. The 110,000 square foot plant, located on the southern outskirts of Calgary, employs 150 persons during peak periods and approximately 75 during slack winter months. Annual payroll is in excess of \$300,000.

The various products are manufactured on an "assembly line" basis. Wood used is primarily mahogany, fir, poplar and plywood.

Pre-finished panelling using basic oak, mahogany and walnut stains is the specialty item of the firm. Plywood and plasterboard can be utilized in the operation which transforms the raw product through a labyrinth of equipment totalling 250 feet in length. On rollers, the raw material first passes

through a filler machine where pores are filled. Two coats of stain are then applied and the material is heated and sanded. The pattern is applied in a printing machine and the article finished with a coat of lacquer.

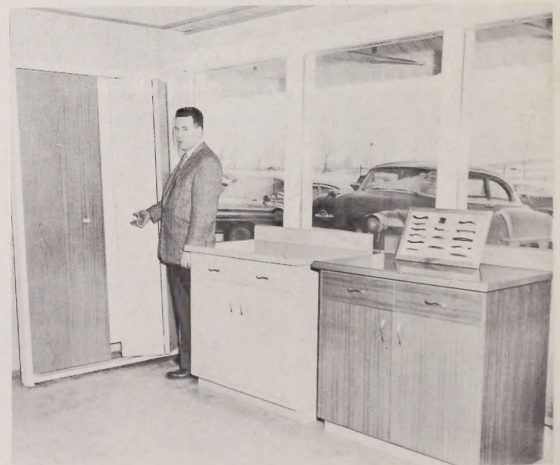
Printed panels can be made up to four feet in width and of almost any length. Approximately 40,000 square feet can be processed in one shift.

Also featured at the Melwood plant is a Calgary designed and built machine that drastically reduces the time necessary to pre-fabricate doors. The machine finishes a door in 2½ minutes while an experienced carpenter requires about 1½ hours to complete the same task.

The four and one-half ton machine drills holes for the lock, cuts a patch out for the hinges, pre-drills holes for screws and prepares the jambs. The unit is powered by nine 10-horsepower engines. It was designed by Gunther Mueller and built by the inventor along with George Hanson and Werner Weerts of the Wemas Machine Works in Calgary.

Kitchen cupboards and arborite counter-tops are mass produced according to demand. Arborite is moulded to the counter-top in a heat process which subjects the material to temperatures up to 300° F.

The Melwood plant comprises four adjoining buildings which vary in size from 100 feet in length and 300 feet in width to a structure 690 feet long and 40 feet wide.



*Folding doors and cupboards with moulded arborite tops are among Melwood's products.*



# SOUTHWEST DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION FORMED

Promotion and economic development of the area covered by the Oldman River District Planning Commission is to be stepped up by a newly-formed Southwest Alberta Development Association.

Directors of the organization met in Lethbridge recently with officials of the Alberta Department of Industry and Development and discussed ways and means of area promotion. Corporate membership of the new body includes cities, towns, villages, municipalities and public bodies such as chambers of commerce. Associate or non-voting memberships are available to interested groups or individuals.

Shown discussing the potential activities of the development association at the recent Lethbridge meeting, are, left to right: H. H. Bartsen, Taber; E. J. Macleod, Lethbridge Industrial Commissioner; J. Gregory, Research Council of Alberta; D. I. Istvanffy,



Statistician, Industry and Development Department; J. E. Oberholtzer, Deputy Minister; N. "Frank" Aboussafy, Coleman, president; D. S. O'Connell, Lethbridge, secretary; T. Weatherup, Lethbridge; G. Lincoln Coward, Lethbridge, 1st vice-president; L. H. Allison, Pincher Creek and R. Martland, Director, Industrial Development Branch.

## Plastic Sky Domes Replacing Windows

The use of plastic and fibre glass as a basic manufacturing material has gained increasing economic importance since the Second World War. North American Solar Lite Manufacturing, and an affiliated company, Reinforced Solar Lite Plastic Ltd. located at 8035 102nd Street, Edmonton, use these materials to manufacture boats, trailers, swimming pools and plastic sky domes.

The parent company established in May 1958 produced sky domes for use in the home or by industry. The sky dome is a clear or translucent plastic bubble which is designed to be mounted in the ceiling of a building, replacing the need of windows. In industrial construction, where every foot of wall space is valuable, many sky domes have been used. The plastic bubble is manufactured at the Solar Lite plant from sheet plastic that is heated and blown to shape.

The company has recently extended its facilities into the manufacture of fibre glass products. The molds, vital to the production, are made at the plant of plywood and plaster of paris. At the present time moulded fibre glass chairs and fish ponds together with several models of light boats are available. A unique, collapsible trailer, which enlarges into a houseboat affording accommodation for four when the top is raised, will be manufactured this summer. A regular camping trailer will also be available this summer.

The company is located in South Edmonton in a \$90,000 brick and frame building which contains approximately 12,000 square feet of work space. Most of the manufacturing equipment, valued at more than \$25,000 was built by the company staff on the premises. The wholly Alberta owned company employs 15 at present with an annual payroll of \$50,000. Annual gross is approximately \$500,000.



*Air is forced into plastic softened in this oven to produce a sky dome.*

The basic material used in the production of plastic sky domes is obtained from the United States, England and Germany. It is expected the plastic material now imported will be obtainable in Canada shortly.



## Domestic, Industrial Furnaces Manufactured by Edmonton Firm

A full line of domestic furnaces and several types of industrial conversion burners are manufactured at the Flame-Master Ltd., plant at 6130 - 97 St., Edmonton. The wholly Alberta owned company was established in 1952 and originally operated from a Quonset hut in South Edmonton. During 1956 the organization moved to the present cement block building which provides 6,000 square feet of work space and a like amount of warehouse accommodation.

The Flame-Master home furnace is completely assembled at the Edmonton plant. The only parts not manufactured on the premises are the electric fan unit and the thermostatic controls. One steel stamping is completed to company specifications at an eastern Canadian foundry. The basic material for the manufacture of the home furnace is sheet steel obtained through a west coast jobber. The sheet steel is shaped and punched at the factory using a series of presses some of which exert pressures up to 100 tons. The parts are manufactured in lots of 500 before assembly commences.

The burner, designed by the company and manufactured on the premises, is believed to be one of the most efficient available. Incorporated with the burner is the thermostatic control. This provides a burner "pack", easily removed from the furnace, and an innovation for easy maintenance and repair.

The assembly of the home furnace is done on a production line with the final stop at the paint room where company colors are applied. Feature of the paint room is a waterfall bath which provides a moving backdrop for the paint sprayers. Any excess spray is immediately flushed into the bath and the odor removed by fan.

The company has constructed several conversion burners for industrial use. These include a pea drying unit which is presently in operation in Manitoba. Gravel drying burners are in use throughout the Province by road building contractors. The burners project a twelve-foot flame into a large vessel of gravel for thorough removal of all moisture.

Flame-Master Ltd. employs twenty-four persons with an annual payroll of \$110,000. The equipment and building are valued at approximately \$200,000. Annual gross is presently \$500,000.

The Company's markets embrace all western provinces and products are distributed through the dealer and distributor trade. Conversion burners of all types have been sold on the Ontario market, also.

## \$300,000 INVESTED

A modern milk processing plant equipped with processing of dairy products was opened recently.

The new structure replaces the downtown building which was replaced by the main C.P.R. line.

The one storey cement block structure, equipped with modern processing equipment, it represents an investment in the dairy industry in the United States and Canada.

Milk and cream are obtained from local farms and processed through a process which breaks down the fat content into butter and delivery vans.



*Pictured is an exterior view of the modern Union Milk plant.*

## Fall Production

*(Continued from Page 1)*

a solvent extraction unit where the remainder of the oil is removed from the meal. The meal is then dried, toasted and granulated. It is used as a nutritious animal and poultry protein supplement and will be sold in bags or bulk. The oil cake loading platforms are designed to accommodate two trucks and two railway cars at a time.

Crude oil is stored in five storage tanks, with a capacity of 840,000 pounds. The refined product will be marketed to edible vegetable oil users throughout Canada. Oil is used in the manufacture of such foodstuffs as shortening, margarine, cooking and salad oils and toppings.

This Lethbridge industry has a power plant capable of producing 30,000 pounds of steam per hour.



## MODERN RED DEER MILK PLANT

with the most modern facilities for the efficient, sanitary manufacture by the Union Milk Company Limited at Red Deer last August.

The building of the Company and is located in southwest Red Deer along

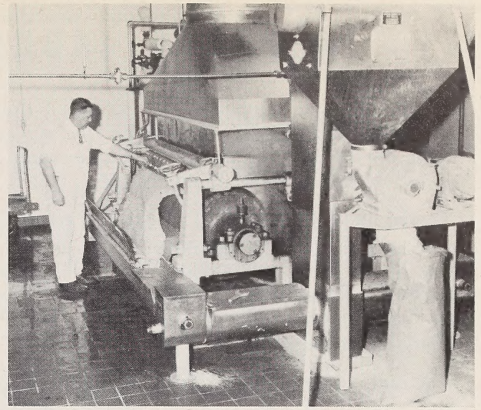
as constructed by a Calgary firm using local sub-contractors. With a cost of \$300,000. The equipment in the plant was manufactured in the

producers. Fresh milk is pasteurized and homogenized by a pressure tank for local delivery is bottled by machine and distributed by nine

The plant is also equipped to handle any surplus fluid milk from the Calgary operation.

Skim milk is converted by roller process to dried powder for use by food manufacturers as milk solids. The modern drying machine needs a minimum of supervision and is capable of handling 25,000 pounds of milk daily.

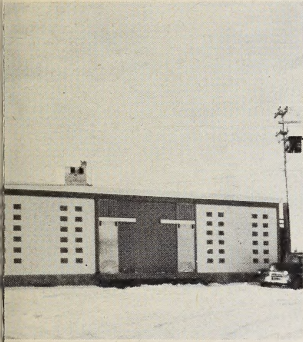
A stainless steel churn capable of producing 1,600 pounds of butter at a single churning is one of the most modern in the province. All milk processed is consumed locally.



*Skim milk is converted to dry milk solids in this unit.*

A staff of 27 is employed by the processing plant, including an office staff of four. The annual payroll is in excess of \$85,000 per year.

The Union Milk Company Limited with Head Office in Calgary is a wholly owned Canadian company and has been in business in Alberta for more than fifty years.



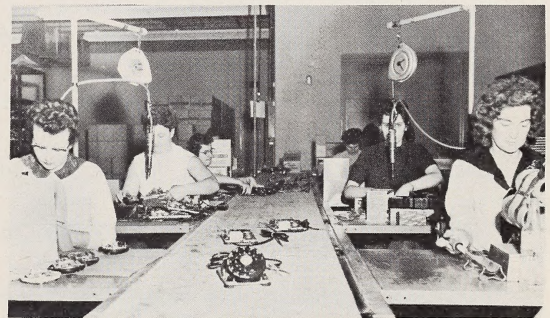
*Company located in west Red Deer.*

## Lethbridge Telephone Firm Has \$200,000 Annual Payroll

A new Alberta industry is the Lethbridge telephone plant of Automatic Electric (Canada) Limited. This plant is a branch of the Canadian manufacturing unit of this company. It is a part of an international manufacturing concern. The firm began operation in Lethbridge in September of 1959 and moved into new quarters of 25,000 square feet area during the latter part of January.

The plant will be equipped to assemble all the company's Canadian requirements of telephones. Twenty-eight persons are employed at the present time although company officials expect this number to increase gradually. Annual payroll is expected to be approximately \$200,000.

The major component parts of telephones are manufactured at the company's eastern Canada plant at Brockville, Ontario and are shipped to Lethbridge for assembly. Parts making up fifty percent of the weight of the telephone are purchased elsewhere. It is hoped that many of these can eventually be purchased in western Canada.



*Major component parts of a telephone are double checked on an assembly line before being attached and packaged for shipment.*

Many of the finished products are marketed in western Canada although shipments have already been made to Newfoundland.

Automatic Electric manufactures telephones in various styles including the desk and wall types and many for special services. Eleven different colors are available ranging from black to pastel shades.

All sales are handled by Automatic Electric Sales (Canada) Limited who have offices across Canada. The Alberta sales office has been located in Edmonton for many years.



## ALBERTA INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Every year hundreds of millions of dollars of foreign manufactured goods are sold in western Canada. Many of these products could be manufactured in western Canada, with quality and price competitive with the imports. Often local businessmen are unaware of the size of the market which has been built up—and of the industrial opportunity.

In 1958 \$448 million of foreign products were cleared at customs' ports in the three prairie provinces. The volume of the imports of some of the items indicates a substantial local market. Below are listed a few of the items which are worthy of scrutiny and closer investigation. Industrialists are invited to discuss, with the Director of Industrial Development, the possibility of securing more information with a view to local manufacture. A publication "Selected Items of Imports" listing these and other items is also available on request.

Customs' clearances of foreign imports cleared at Customs' Ports in the three Prairie Provinces, 1958, of items which might be manufactured locally.

Class No.	Description	Quantity	Value \$	Class No.	Description	Quantity	Value \$
2232	*Men's, women's,			5565	Road or railway	\$ —	963,647
2233	children's, boots and	Pr.	205,223	1,017,206	scrapers		
2234	shoes of leather			5692	*Furniture of metal	\$ —	1,116,370
4143	Charcoal, made from wood	Ton	1,107	89,786	5713	*Valves of iron or steel, n.o.p.	\$ — 2,533,855
4151	*Furniture, house, office, cabinet or store of wood, etc.	\$ —	1,069,828	5720	*Domestic warm air furnace	No. 8,764	1,036,167
4169	Building and insulating board, wood pulp	Lb.	4,867,869	612,594	5734	*Gas water heaters	No. 13,783 713,190
5185	Oil country goods, steel, n.o.p.	Cwt.	160,025	2,110,650	6037	Plumber's brass goods	\$ — 420,425
5352	*Post hole digger and parts	No.	2,168	110,673	6247	Wire, non-ferrous, covered	\$ — 462,379
5411	Nuts and bolts, washers and rivets	Lb.	712,339	265,769	5600	*Baths, bathtubs,	
5482	*Well drilling machinery	\$ —	35,634,774	7052	basins, closets, sinks	\$ —	836,794
				5621			
				7271	Roofing granules	Cwt. 441,036	558,981
				8337	Cleaning compounds, sodium base	Lb. 2,028,799	272,074
				9168	*Hand wheelbarrows, trucks and carts	No. 15,867	283,807

It must be emphasized that, in addition, a substantial volume of each of these items comes into the prairie provinces from other parts of Canada.

### NEWSLETTER'S MANUFACTURING IDEA IS SEIZED

One opportunity for industrial development cited in our "Opportunities" column recently involved manufacture of steel drums. These drums are now being manufactured by the International Co-operation Co. of Canada at Lloydminster. The firm announces that machinery and equipment is being installed in a new plant addition for the combined production of both steel and fibre containers to meet the demands of consumers in Western Canada.

Research organizations of the Department of Industry and Development will attempt to secure additional information on any of the topics mentioned in this section on behalf of interested parties. Inquiries should be directed to Richard Martland, Director, Industrial Development Branch, Department of Industry and Development, Edmonton.



# CITY OF MEDICINE HAT

**Location:** Section 31-12-5-W4, on main transcontinental line of CPR and Trans-Canada highway.

**Altitude:** 3,116.1 feet.

**Temperature:** Mean summer, 62 degrees F.; mean winter, 27.5 degrees F.; mean yearly, 42 degrees F.

**Rainfall:** Average yearly rainfall, 11.44 inches; average annual snowfall, 35.6 inches; average annual precipitation, 15 inches.

**Geology:** Bedrock of this area underlying the glacial deposits is the Belly River formation of the Upper Cretaceous period. Dinosaur beds and coal seams are found in this horizon.

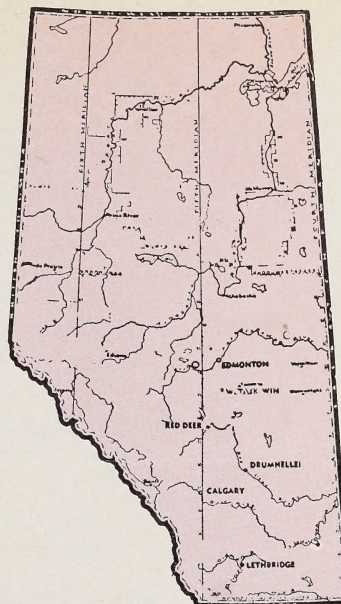
**Soil:** Medicine Hat is surrounded by the brown soil zone. It is relatively low in nitrogen but often responds to phosphorus fertilizers. Vegetation is chiefly short grass prairie. Some grassland with bluffs of trees and more favorable soil conditions are found to the south. Most of the area is desirable for ranching purposes. Where farmed, wheat is the principal crop grown.

**History:** The birth of Medicine Hat centred around the arrival of the railway in 1883. Settlers arriving prior to the town survey lived and conducted business in tents until permanent buildings could be started. First religious services were conducted in the station house in 1883, while the first school was opened two years later with the Medicine Hat School District being formed in 1886. A Separate School Board was formed in 1912.

Medicine Hat was established as an unincorporated town on May 31, 1894; incorporated as a regular town October 31, 1898, and received a city charter May 9, 1906.

The first hospital, built to accommodate 24 patients, was opened in 1889. Ten years later the first city gas well was drilled and four years following the initial discovery a tremendous flow of dry gas was discovered.

**Living Conditions:** Medicine Hat is an attractive city of trees and gardens. A long frost-free growing season allows residents to grow a variety of fruits and vegetables for their own use. Utilities are city-owned, providing low-cost gas, water and electric power. There are eight splendid schools and ample provision for winter and summer sports, recreation and entertainment. Excellent health facilities are also provided. Streets of Medicine Hat are wide and paved. There are approximately 4,100 homes in the city; about 70 per cent of them owner-occupied. There are ten city buses operating on regular schedules. Medicine Hat is on the transcontinental route for air, rail and bus lines.



← MEDICINE HAT

**Administration:** The city is governed by a mayor elected for a two-year term, and eight aldermen, four of whom are elected each year for a two-year term. The city is administered by heads of departments through a co-ordinator.

**Law and Regulations:** There is a municipal police force of one chief constable, five sergeants, two detectives and 20 constables.

The city has a zoning bylaw which takes precedence over a building bylaw. Gas installations must comply with city regulations while electrical and sanitary requirements comply with provincial regulations.

**Fire Protection:** A fire brigade working on a three-platoon, 8-hour shift basis has at its disposal adequate equipment to ensure efficient fire protection.

**Areas:** City, 14,300 acres; streets and lanes, 121.6 miles; parks and playgrounds, 75 acres; concrete sidewalks, 60.2 miles.

**Sewer and Water Mains:** Sanitary sewers, 62.7 miles; storm sewers, 19.65 miles; water mains, 68.7 miles.

**Power:** Three phase 60 cycle power is supplied from a plant owned by the City and operated by agreement with Calgary Power Limited. Residential rate: first 30 kwh or less used per month, 6c per kwh; remainder kwh used per month 1½c per kwh. Minimum monthly charge, \$1.00. Other rate



classifications include: commercial lighting; commercial power; combined light and power; contract primary power (4,000 volt service); and contract primary power (13,800 volt service).

**Water:** Water is obtained from the South Saskatchewan River that flows through the city and from wells that have tapped a pre-historic underground river. Potential of the newly discovered supply is estimated at 10 million gallons per day. Temperature range of the underground water varies between 55 degrees F. in December to 40 degrees F. during May and June.

**Gas:** The natural gas distribution system is owned and operated by the City. Several large industries have their own gas wells, but obtain part of their fuel requirements from city gas mains. There are three rate classes.

**Fuel:** L.P. gas is available at \$6.50 per 100 pound cylinder or 18 cents per gallon in bulk. Diesel fuel rates are 17.2 cents per gallon summer grade, and 18.2 cents per gallon winter grade. Coal is not used.

**Resources:** Clay, natural gas, sand and gravel, cereal grains, horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry and eggs, vegetable oil crops, greenhouse products.

**Health Services:** The Medicine Hat Municipal Hospital of 243 beds and 37 bassinets is staffed by 95 graduate nurses, 60 student nurses and approximately 190 other staff. Rates per day are \$2.00 for Canadian residents and \$15.00 for non-residents.

There is a full complement of medical practitioners; dentists; eye, ear, nose and throat specialists; optometrists; chiropractors and others providing professional health services in the community.

**Professional and Skilled Services:** Several auditors and public accountants, barristers and lawyers, beauty parlors, barbers and watch repair shops.

**Transportation:** Canadian Pacific Railway — trans-continental and branch lines; Canadian Greyhound Bus Lines transcontinental runs; Trans-Canada Airlines; Medicine Hat Air Services (charter); city bus system; three taxi stands; truck transportation.

**Newspapers:** The Medicine Hat News (daily).

**Communications:** CP Telegraphs, Alberta Government Telephones, Royal Mail, CHAT-TV and radio.

**Financial Facilities:** Bank of Montreal; Canadian Bank of Commerce; Toronto-Dominion Bank; Royal Bank of Canada; Imperial Bank of Canada; Bank of Nova Scotia; Provincial Treasury Branch.

**Hotels and Tourist Facilities:** There are five hotels with more than 290 rooms and 15 motels with a total of 160 units. There are also five trailer parks.

**Churches:** Most major religious denominations are represented.

**Lodges and Service Clubs:** There are many lodges, service clubs, societies and associations in the community.

**Education:** There is a public and a separate school district in the city. Grades 1 to 12 are offered with such optional subjects as commercial, home economics, woodwork, metal work, electrical, automotives, agriculture, music, art, drama and physical education. There are nearly 5,000 students and more than 150 teachers in the two school systems.

The Hillcrest Christian College offers a four-year course with such subjects as theology, physiology, public speaking, languages, art, music, voice and Bible subjects.

**Cultural Activities:** A municipal library is supported by provincial government grant and membership fees. There are more than 32,000 volumes. A City Recreation Commission sponsors instruction in various handicrafts and other recreation activities for children and adults. There is an active theatre group.

**Sports Facilities:** Covered artificial ice curling and hockey arenas, 18 open air hockey and skating rinks, baseball diamonds, two 18-hole golf courses, lawn bowling greens, outdoor swimming and wading pools.

**Historic Sites:** Police Point on the grounds of the Medicine Hat Golf Club was headquarters for the NWMP from 1883 to 1891.

**Population:** City, 21,740; trading area, 51,707.

**Trading Area:** North, 50 miles; west, 65 miles; south, 70 miles; east, 30 miles.

**Industrial Development:** Major industries located in Medicine Hat include: greenhouses—there are 28 acres under glass growing flowers year-round; fertilizer—produced at \$23,000,000 plant of Northwest Nitro-Chemical Company; flour mills producing more than 5,000 barrels of flour per day; four plants producing ceramic ware; glass factory and rubber tire plant. The city is rapidly expanding due mainly to a good water supply and cheap fuel. Excellent industrial sites with trackage and highway facilities can be purchased from the city at reasonable prices. Serviced residential sites are also available.

For further information about Medicine Hat write

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR  
CITY OF MEDICINE HAT  
MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA**

or  
**R. MARTLAND**  
Director of Industrial Development  
Department of Industry and Development  
Administration Building  
Edmonton, Alberta.